* 2606 Q.—SRI M. S. MOGRAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons that were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine in the State up to date;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints about any health disorders as a result of such vaccination; and

(c) if so, the action taken to allay the apprehensions of the people about the efficacy of the B.C.G. vaccine?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (a) 504,890 persons up to the close of the mass B.C.G. vaccination campaign in Madurai and its belt areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Complaints were promptly enquired into by the local health staff, who also arranged for their treatment, wherever necessary. A committee of experts was also constituted to enquire into the case of a girl in Coimbatore who was reported to have lost her eye-sight. The committee was of opinion that her blindness had no relation to B.C.G. Excepting normal reactions after B.C.G. vaccination all other complaints were found to be unconnected with B.C.G. Instructions have been issued to all Health Officers for the systematic follow up of all school children vaccinated with B.C.G. and also to promptly attend to all cases of reports of ill-health. District Medical Officers also have been requested to arrange for the prompt treatment of all cases of complaints received. Active Public Health Educative Propaganda and Publicity are being done by the B.C.G. vaccination Field Teams to allay the apprehensions of the public and to restore confidence in the efficacy of B.C.G. and its harmlessness. A pamphlet has also been issued by the Government stating the truth about B.C.G. and why a mass campaign has been launched.

9-20 a.m. SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR: When was the girl Dhanalakshmi subjected to tuberculin test? Is there any relation between the development of jaundice and the inoculation of the tuberculin vaccine? Are the Government aware of a news report that the lady doctor in the Government Headquarters Hospital gave to the father of the girl her opinion that the eye-sight was affected as a direct consequence of the tuberculin vaccine?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: I have already stated that the girl developed jaundice, that her sight had not been affected and that the jaundice had cleared.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: What did the experts who assembled at Courtallam to examine this matter recommend to the Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: A separate question may be asked.

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SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR : My question was whether the girl developed jaundice after the tuberculin vaccination or whether she had jaundice before the injection.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Any ailments that occur after B.C.G. vaccination should not be attributed to the vaccination.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know the details of the instructions issued by the Government regarding the follow-up of persons to whom inoculation has been given, as that alone is likely to allay the fear in the mind of the public in the confused nature of the state of affairs at present?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : A separate question may be asked, if the hon. Member wants to know particulars.

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Was mass B.C.G. campaign in vogue even during the period of the Rajaji Ministry?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There was mass B.C.G. vaccination in other States in India.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : If the present Government really believe in the efficacy of B.C.G. vaccination, why should not the present protagonists of B.C.G vaccination—I am referring to the Minister under reference and the other Ministers without meaning any personal offence to them—subject themselves to that vaccination and prove to the world beyond any reasonable doubt that B.C.G. vaccination does not produce evil repercussions?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : B.C.G. vaccination is in most cases given to children and young persons and it is not found necessary for elderly people. So far as I am concerned, I may say that the children in my house have been given B.C.G. vaccination.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Are the Government aware that now whenever the officers go to the mufassal for giving B.C.G. vaccination, the people there run away and hide themselves? Does this happen because the people do not know the value of B.C.G. vaccination or because they are afraid that the vaccination will produce evil effects? What steps have the Government taken to educate the masses on the good effects of B.C.G. vaccination?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have already answered this question more than once. A certain Tamil weekly paper publishes articles against B.C.G. vaccination, these articles are reprinted in thousands and thousands and the reprints are distributed from house to house by the local agents of that Tamil weekly. By this a fear has been created in the mind of the people particularly the womenfolk, and the womenfolk have become very much frightened. Teachers also have got frightened and as a class they are non-co-operating. That is how the B.C.G. campaign is meeting with obstructions and obstacles. No such thing is happening in the other States in India. B.C.G. vaccination is being given in

all the States in India and in the various countries of the world—America, Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, and Middle-East. In Soviet Russia I may say all new-born children and school children are being given B.C.G. vaccination and Russians have found that as a result of the vaccination tuberculosis infection rate and mortality rate have decreased to a great extent.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM: The Hon. Minister said that B.C.G. vaccination was given to children and young persons and that the Ministers are past that age group. I should like to know whether the hon. Member Sri K. Vinayakam is within the age group for B.C.G. vaccination.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Sri Vinayakam must certainly be much above 25 years of age.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: One of the questions put was what steps the Government were taking to counteract a particular propaganda. Am to understand that the Minister considers his replies in this House themselves as counter-propaganda?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Government have published a pamphlet in English and also a pamphlet in Tamil. Copies of these pamphlets are being distributed to the people. In places where B.C.G. vaccination is to be taken up, the B.C.G officers do propaganda.

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER: Before giving B.C.G. vaccination, are the people tested by doctors to find out whether they are in a fit condition to withstand the reaction that is likely to be produced by the vaccination and are those found unfit rejected?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Unnecessary fears are being created in the minds of the people by such questions by very intelligent members of this Assembly.

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH: What is the age group in which B.C.G. is effective?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: B.C.G. can be effective at any age. But generally only persons from 1 to 25 years of age are given B.C.G. vaccination.

9-30 a.m. SRI T. SHANMUGAM: இப்போது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் "இந்த பி.ஸி.ஜி. வாக்ஸினேஷன் செய்யக்கூடாதென்று பத்திரிகைகள் பிரசாரம் செய்கின்றன. புத்தகங்களும் வீட்டுக்கு வீடு வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன" என்று சொன்னார்கள். இப்படி நல்ல காரியத்தில் தலையிடுபவர்கள் மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டாமா என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்கிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: We leave it to the good sense of the people. I find that of late we are getting better response to this B.C.G. campaign. I hope that in course of time better counsels will prevail and that the people of the State will become as sensible as the people of other States.

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DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Is it not a fact that all children who are given B.C.G. vaccination are first tuberculin tested and that only if the test shows negative reaction and if their health is otherwise good, they are given the B.C.G. vaccination?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. In every case tuberculin test is first conducted and only for negative reactors B.C.G. vaccination is given if they are fit to receive it. The hon. Members are well aware that the B.C.G. vaccination is entirely voluntary and optional.

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : May I know whether the B.C.G. vaccination came into vogue during the time of Rajaji's regime or during the regime of the present Cabinet?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : B.C.G. vaccination was given for select groups in Madras City from the year 1948 onwards. During Rajaji's Ministry, it was first proposed to have it done at Tellicherry on a mass scale and subsequently, it was proposed to extend it to the whole of the West Coast and revised proposals were called for. In the meantime, Rajaji resigned and a little time after that, the present Ministry decided to have the B.C.G. campaign in the whole of the State.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : I have already mentioned on a former occasion in answer to a similar reference by the Hon. Minister that the introduction of B.C.G. campaign in Tellicherry was a mere proposal and that the then Chief Minister was personally against it. That apart, I want to put a question. The Hon. Minister conveniently quoted Russia. May I know whether the Hon. Minister would place a comparative table of the precautions taken and the tests conducted before and after inoculation in Russia and in India?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: In a mass vaccination campaign all children between certain age groups are tuberculin tested and given the B.C.G. vaccination, if they are negative reactors. People who are unhealthy or are suffering from any particular complaints and who themselves think or whose parents think that they are unfit for this vaccination won't go in for vaccination. What exactly the hon. Member wants to know fail to understand.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : It is a well-known fact that in the case of such vaccinations a number of precautions have to be taken even with regard to the test in respect of sterilising the needle and various other things. After that, also a follow-up has to take place. Are not the Government of Madras aware of the fact that the staff available either in the Soviet Union or in any other western countries is far greater than the staff available for such purposes in the Madras State? When the Government of Madras launched upon this campaign of mass vaccination, what steps did they take for the purpose of augmenting their staff?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. the Leader of the Opposition is evidently presuming that B.C.G. vaccination produces certain complications. As a matter of fact, no complications arise after B.C.G. vaccination. Only a few cases have been reported of alleged complications, while more than five lakhs of people have been given the vaccination. As a result of our investigations, we have found no case of complications of any serious nature as having resulted from the B.C.G. vaccination. It is an unnecessary fear created in the minds of the people which is being kept up by certain interested persons.

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI : ஸார், சர்க்காருடைய கொள்கையும் சர்க்கார் கட்சியின் கொள்கையும் ஒன்றாக இருந்து பி.சி.ஜி.-போடவேண்டும் என்று இருக்கிறது. அதற்கு எதிராக ராஜாஜி தலைமை தாங்கி இயக்கம் நடத்துகிறார். அதனால் இப்பொழுது அவர் சர்க்கார் கட்சியில் இருக்கிறாரா அல்லது எதிர்க் கட்சியில் இருக்கிறாரா ?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : If Rajaji really thought that B.C.G. vaccination was not advisable, he could have taken up the matter at the party meeting or with the Cabinet and tried to argue with the members of the party and convince the Ministry that B.C.G. campaign should not have been launched upon. But, unfortunately, though a man of the party Rajaji carrying on a campaign against a measure which has been launched upon by the Government both here and at the Centre and in all the States of India.

MR. SPEAKER : There are still about 41 questions more. The ordinary scheduled time is over. I would like to know whether it is the wish of the House that the question-time should be extended till all the questions are over which it may not be possible in which case the remaining questions will be printed together with the answers and will form part of the proceedings.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : I am not interested in the party affairs of the ruling party—whether Rajaji is transgressing the party rules or not. I am concerned with the effect of the vaccination upon the common people of the country. Nor do I think that B.C.G. vaccination is going to have any harmful effects. Apart from the fact that B.C.G. vaccination may not or does not have any harmful effect upon the particular person, the precautions that are necessary to be taken before vaccination will certainly have an effect upon the people. A number of precautions have been prescribed for the inoculation of people not only with B.C.G. vaccine but, for the matter of that, with any vaccine. The only question, therefore, is whether the Government consider that the staff that they have got is quite adequate for carrying on this mass vaccination campaign taking into account the precautions that have been prescribed so that the people may be free from any kind of fear?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: It is not only the B.C.G. vaccination staff that is concerned with this question. We have got the health staff, medical staff and other staff in every place.

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We have asked the Health Officers to follow up cases and find out if any ailments or complications arise and have them treated in hospitals. We have instructed the Director of Medical Services to give directions to D.M.Os. to pay special attention to cases which are reported to have resulted from B.C.G. vaccination. No necessity is found for sanctioning any special staff for this purpose.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: It is stated that B.C.G. vaccination can have good results only in the case of well-nourished children. It is a notorious fact that our children in the mufassal are ill-fed and undernourished. Will the Government see that in cases where B.C.G. vaccination is given to the children in the mufassal, they are given free nourishing food?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : B.C.G. vaccination is specially necessary for underdeveloped countries with ill-nourished people where the rate of infection from tuberculosis is high and where mortality rates are high. It is much more necessary here than in other countries where people are well-fed and where the incidence of tuberculosis is comparatively low.

Removal of untouchability

* 2607 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the reasons for not implementing the scheme of the Union Government for the removal of untouchability so far?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : The presumption of the hon. Member that the schemes for the Removal of Untouchability have not been implemented so far, is not correct.

* 2608 *Q.*—Sri P. G. MANICKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state with reference to the answers to question No. 45 answered on 4th December 1954 and No. 1437 answered on 18th March 1955 :

(*a*) the contribution of the Central Government towards the Two-Year Plan for the removal of untouchability ; and

(*b*) the sum allotted for the purpose by the State Government?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) A contribution of Rs. 38,000 was made by the Government of India for expenditure on the schemes for the Removal of Untouchability during 1954–55. This Government contributed an equal amount. A ceiling grant of Rs. 5 lakhs has been tentatively fixed by the Government of India for 1955–56. Schemes costing Rs. 14,39,100 have been sent to the Government of India for approval and a grant of Rs. 10,03,614 has been claimed from the Government of India. The balance will be met by this Government.